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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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1230 York Avenue
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Dear Josh:

Sorry memories that bless and burn about your epiphanies at the 1946 meeting at Cold Spring Harbor:

I forget who chaired - might've been some easy-going yet competent worthy - e.g. Demeretz? You broke into just about every discussion; I don't recall whether you actually interrupted the speakers. Anyway, it was clear that a) you knew your subject; b) on your feet your mind worked damn fast c) if you knew anything about genteel academic-scientific protocol, such niceties didn't inhibit. After several bravura (semi-filibuster?) dominations of the discussions of several papers, the proceedings having been taken over by you, the chair announced-coming to terms with reality - that he was appointing you honorary chairman of the Meeting. At this, you looked a bit startled, slowed up momentarily, then went on as before.

At the 1948 Cold Spring Harbor potlatch, I gave a paper describing how streptomycin, to employ your felitous phrase, Cured Euglena of its chloroplasts. Anyway, in this remarkably brief interval, you'd become ESTBLISHMENT!

Me in 1992: I've a Brazilian lower trypanosomatid which, when cured of its bacterium-like endosymbiont (one per cell, when the flagellate divides, the symbiont divides). The cured strain requires a remarkbly high concentration of nicotinamide, which you may be aware, is shed, perhaps stoichiometrically, when poly(ADP-ribose) synthetase goes into action. As discussed in Nature (March 26, '92 issue: Satoh & Lundall: Role of poly (ADP-ribose) formation in DNA repair. pp. 35608,

(This system may be the most important for DNA repair.

We may be slithering towards each other's turf!

Best wishes,

Seymour

Seymour H. Hutner
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